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Chair: Mr. Mero (Vice-Chair) ..... (United Republic of Tanzania)

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In the absence of Mr. Talbot (Guyana), Mr. Mero (United Republic of Tanzania), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Agenda item 17: Information and communication technologies for development (*continued*) (A/67/65/Corr.1-E/2012/48/Corr.1, A/67/66-E/2012/49, A/67/66/Add.1-E/2012/49/Add.1 and A/67/207)

1. **Mr. Morozov** (Russian Federation) said that since 2011, the Russian Federation had implemented a number of specialized information systems to ensure the effective use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) at all levels of society, including a fully operative system of e-Government. As one of the founders of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), his country applauded the discussion on internationalizing Internet governance with the Union's guidance and oversight. The upcoming World Conference on International Telecommunications would provide the opportunity to consider revising the International Telecommunication Regulations.

2. It was important to strengthen the role of ITU in shaping future communication networks with an emphasis on developing testing mechanisms for new technologies, protocols and communication services. The Union should also be recognized as the leading expert in testing for compliance and compatibility and developing global standards as a basis for the establishment of national technical regulations.

3. Additional measures to improve coordination between the Union and its members included revising the procedure for the participation of regional telecommunications organizations as observers in the ITU Council, providing free online access to the recently revised ITU Radio Regulations and improving the Union's internal management and governance by enhancing the effectiveness of the Independent Advisory Committee on Management (IMAC).

4. **Mr. Lakhal** (Tunisia) recalled that some recent developments, such as the rapid development of the mobile Internet and the exceptionally rapid growth of social networking, had not been generally anticipated at the time of the World Summit on the Information Society. Although the mobile revolution had narrowed the digital divide in one respect, disparities in broadband access between developed and developing countries remained and while broadband was critical for advancing development, many countries lacked the infrastructure, finance and human skills to take full advantage of ICTs. Furthermore, the increasing threat of cybercrime and content piracy, particularly in developing countries, required enhanced cooperation, technical assistance and capacity-building to prevent the use of information technologies for criminal purposes.

5. He stressed the importance of implementing the outcome documents of the Geneva and Tunis phases of the World Summit and the recommendations of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum, in particular by broadening the participation and capacity-building of developing countries and under-represented stakeholders and ensuring the long-term predictability and stability of funding for the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and its activities.

6. At the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) meeting on enhanced cooperation on public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, held in Geneva on 18 May 2012, the participants had considered it urgent to initiate and reinforce a transparent, democratic and multilateral process that would give Governments an important role in Internet governance within the multi-stakeholder framework established by the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society. His delegation therefore called for the establishment of an intergovernmental mechanism for enhanced cooperation, within the framework of the United Nations, that would place Governments on an equal footing and give them a role in matters relating to public policy on the Internet.

7. His delegation reaffirmed the role of the General Assembly in the Open Consultation Process on Overall Review of the Implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society Outcomes (WSIS-10), to be held by the end of 2015 as requested in paragraph 111 of the Tunis Agenda, and supported the holding of a high-level review conference for that purpose. The conference should also address the new opportunities and challenges presented by technological and market changes and the major challenges to States, and particularly developing States.

8. **Ms. Assaf** (Brazil) recalled that at the June 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), the participants had considered

it essential to work towards improved access to ICTs and to bridge the digital divide, with international cooperation playing a vital role in the pursuit of those goals. The United Nations should play a pivotal role in harnessing the full potential of ICTs as tools for development, as envisaged in the Geneva Declaration of Principles, and addressing the lack of effective financial mechanisms aimed at eliminating the digital divide.

9. Most poor populations had yet to benefit from the extraordinary growth in ICTs in recent years. In order to build an open, inclusive, diverse and reliable information society, it was critical to democratize Internet governance; only through enhanced global coordination would the Internet remain free and secure for all. He urged all stakeholders to engage constructively in the debate on that issue. As no consensus had been reached at the 18 May 2012 CSTD meeting on enhanced cooperation on public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, the Commission's mandate to continue discussion of the launching of an enhanced cooperation process, preferably by creating a multi-stakeholder working group, should be renewed. Universal access was a guiding principle of his Government's Internet governance policy and an essential tool for human and social development. It was important to ensure that ICTs became an effective tool for reducing social and economic inequality.

10. **Ms. Melnikovich** (Belarus) said that ICTs represented one of the modern world's most dynamic sectors, whose comprehensive integration into the social and economic spheres had dramatically raised global living standards and facilitated attainment of the internationally agreed development goals. In particular, they had played a key role in establishing the new social and economic infrastructure that was vital to the achievement of sustainable development by qualitatively improving information exchange. The United Nations, by virtue of its universality and moral authority, continued to play a key role in promoting international cooperation with a view to transforming the sector's potential into a genuine force for development. One of the Organization's leading tasks was to provide advisory and technical assistance to Member States with the aim of implementing e-Government and to promote technology transfer in order to improve the competitiveness of developing countries, including those in the middle-income category.

11. The development of information and communications technologies was one of her Government's top priorities and, to that end, it had implemented a national communications strategy in order to match the most advanced European countries by 2015. In addition, a national programme had been inaugurated in order to accelerate the development of ICTs in the areas of governance, health, education and human resources.

12. It was vital that international and legal norms should be established in order to protect consumers from threats such as Internet piracy, phishing, cyberterrorism, cyberattacks and other threats, as well as to establish universally accepted norms of behaviour in cyberspace. A highly developed and accessible information and communications sector was an essential precondition for equitable and inclusive economic growth, not only of developed countries but of the middle-income countries where more than two-thirds of the world's poor resided.

13. **Mr. Haniff** (Malaysia) said that, since the creation of its Multimedia Super Corridor in 1996, Malaysia had taken a number of steps to integrate new communications technologies into its development agenda. The National Broadband Initiative of 2010 and Digital Malaysia, launched in 2011, would help to create an affordable, universally accessible digital ecosystem that would increase gross national income (GNI), enhance productivity and raise the population's standard of living.

14. The goal of the Digital Malaysia initiative was to redefine Malaysia as a country of demand and production rather than supply and consumption and to move its work force from low- to high-skilled. Malaysia had launched a number of initiatives to boost digital services and build capacities, including in the banking, consumer, education and financial sectors. At the international level, the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme had played an active role in South-South cooperation, sharing ICT expertise with over 141 developing countries since 1981.

15. Development was not only about increasing the number of mobile devices or broadband users; the strategic thrust of ICT initiatives should be to help countries achieve tangible improvements in the living standards their people. The Committee should endeavour to find more ways for ICTs to accelerate the

economic development of Member States, especially in the developing world.

16. **Mr. Elshaar** (Egypt) said that ICTs were crucial in meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). According to the World Bank, a 10 per cent increase in broadband penetration would raise the average growth rate of gross domestic product (GDP) by 1.2 per cent in high income countries and 1.4 per cent in low-middle-income countries. As noted in the Rio+20 outcome document, The future we want, greater effort should be made to bridge the gap in broadband access and affordability, especially in the developing and least developed countries.

17. His delegation attached great importance to the principles established at the World Summit on the Information Society, including multilateral, transparent and democratic Internet governance, equitable distribution of resources and access for all. Since the primary objective of the Tunis Agenda had not been met, his delegation supported the proposal to establish a working group on enhanced cooperation under the aegis of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. It also called for the establishment of an intergovernmental preparatory committee to set the agenda and prepare a draft outcome document for WSIS+10.

18. **Mr. Al Seedi** (Iraq) said that his Government had adopted a holistic approach to Internet development and had implemented a number of measures, including the adoption of legislation on electronic signatures and transactions and expansion of the use of ICTs. With a view to narrowing the digital divide, it had established a capacity-building programme that had trained 6,000 people, an interactive Government gateway and a communications framework connecting the Government with local and national institutions in the areas of health, education and information services.

19. His Government had also provided support for the private sector and was promoting the use of mobile networks and broadband, including in the postal system. It was preparing to host an international conference on the theme "Together towards Digital Inclusion", to be held in Baghdad on 2 and 3 December 2012, with the aim of ensuring that advances in ICT served the country's overall development goals.

20. **Mr. Monthienvichienchai** (Thailand) said that vast improvements in usability, scalability and affordability had made ICTs an important tool for development. His Government had introduced a number of ICT initiatives, including the Government Information Network, which reduced overhead costs and streamlined delivery of Government services, and projects in the areas of telemedicine and telecare. His country was bridging the digital divide by offering free public WiFi and distributing free tablet computers in schools. ICTs also played a crucial role in the advancement of small and medium-sized enterprises and in trade facilitation. Given the rapid pace of technological development, it was important for policies to be sufficiently flexible to accommodate unanticipated change, such as the leap forward in rural development that his country had experienced, through improved access to mobile communications.

21. The potential of technology to transform development should be kept in mind in collecting baseline data with a view to the formulation of sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda and in assessing results. Crowdsourcing was another way to broaden public participation in solving problems at the global, national and community levels.

22. With the increase in online transactions, new challenges, such as cybersecurity and Internet governance, demanded the involvement of all stakeholders to achieve an acceptable balance between regulatory measures and freedom. His delegation supported the role of the IGF in that regard.

23. **Mr. Dhanapala** (Sri Lanka) said that his Government had implemented a number of programmes as part of its ICT strategy; its e-Sri Lanka programme had delivered improvements in the economic, development and social spheres. It had also launched grassroots initiatives to strengthen information management in the areas of governance, education, health care and in the industrial, agricultural, fishery, social security and judicial sectors and had built a rural telecentre network that promoted partnerships among Government, the private sector, individual entrepreneurs and civil society. A similar island-wide network, operated by the Ministry of Technology and Research, was expanding access to scientific and technological applications into rural areas with content in local languages. The Ministry for Information and Communication Technology, established in 2010, encouraged competition among providers in implementing an island-wide broadband backbone aimed at narrowing the digital divide.

24. In that connection, he commended the United Nations Public Service Awards Programme, which encouraged innovative e-Government applications worldwide. His Government's administrative reform policy recognized e-Government as the key to the State's public sector reform agenda owing to its focus on giving citizens access to many Government and e-business services. As a result of Government investments, Sri Lanka's ICT literacy rate had risen from 5 per cent in 2004 to almost 40 per cent in 2012, with a goal of 75 per cent by 2015, and mobile phone penetration was above 100 per cent.

25. Bridging the divide between rural and urban communities had multiple short- and long-term benefits, from helping to curb unwanted migration patterns to reducing the need for costly visits to urban centres. ICTs also served young people by offering a platform for distance education and innovative employment creation, including ICT-based green jobs and small-scale business process outsourcing companies. Moreover, ICTs themselves were a growth sector and had become the fifth largest source of national revenue and there were plans to make it the largest such source by 2015.

26. Having taken the lead in harmonizing its national legislation with existing international codes on Internet management and governance, his Government believed that the efficiency of existing platforms should be maximized before new standards for international Internet governance were introduced. The State's statutes in those areas were often used as best practice cases in global forums and its President aimed to make the country a knowledge hub in the region. Sri Lanka had recently been elected to a third term as Chair of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Committee on Information and Communications Technology.

27. **Ms. Saban** (United States of America) said that distributed systems such as the Internet required distributed action; no single institution, document, arrangement or instrument could address the needs of a networked world. She therefore welcomed the May 2012 meeting of the CSTD meeting on enhanced cooperation on public policy issues pertaining to the Internet and recalled that the Tunis Agenda had requested the Economic and Social Council, through the Commission, to continue to play a coordinating role in follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society through a multi-stakeholder approach. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and ITU had already adopted parallel resolutions with a view to hosting the World Summit review meetings using extra-budgetary funds; her delegation hoped that all other relevant United Nations agencies would conduct similar reviews in accordance with their different mandates and competencies and would report on their findings to the Council in writing by February 2015.

28. **Mr. Aliyev** (Azerbaijan) said that large capital investments were required to build the high quality telecommunications infrastructure that would lead to full digital inclusion, which had the potential to boost the Internet value chain's overall contribution to the GDP of national economies. Regional solutions could enable countries to reduce costs, improve services and achieve economies of scale by leveraging existing assets and sharing investment risks. The Trans-Eurasian Information Super Highway, for which Azerbaijan served as implementation coordinator, played an important role in bridging the digital divide and had been recognized in General Assembly resolution 64/186.

29. The Government viewed ICTs as a means of empowering citizens. Azerbaijan had one of the world's highest number of mobile phone users and its Internet prices had fallen by 35 per cent as a result of expanded competition. One State and two private networks connected all regional centres and 35 per cent of villages with a high speed single network, and the goal was to make such services available in all rural areas. His country had been the first in its region to fully digitize its fixed telephone system with a capacity of 18.6 per cent for every 100 people. E-signatures and e-Government had been introduced in 2011.

30. Over the next 10 years, the Government planned to invest 3.5 billion dollars in ICT projects and expected the private sector to do so as well. To that end, it was further improving the State's economic environment through enabling fiscal and monetary tools. That support had made Azerbaijan the region's leading country in ICT initiatives. At the regional level, it continued to promote experience- and knowledge-sharing between Governments, industry leaders, academics and civil society. From 6 to 9 November 2012, it had hosted simultaneously, in Baku, the eighteenth Azerbaijan International Exhibition and Conference on the theme "Telecommunications and

Information Technologies" (Bakutel) and the seventh IGF.

31. **Mr. Xie** Xiaowu (China) said that the number of Chinese Internet users had reached 538 million. There were 270 million users of weibo, the Chinese equivalent of Twitter, and China held third place worldwide in number of Internet Protocol Version 6 (Ipv6) addresses. However, China still faced a digital divide among its regions and was accelerating research and development on the next generation of ICTs, including broadband; in that connection, he called on the international community to support efforts to develop new transnational ICT infrastructures.

32. Owing to its huge market demand, population dividend and late-comer advantage, China enjoyed a large comparative edge that would soon be shared by many developing countries. However, some States had recently blocked the use of Chinese products, contravening market rules and international trade norms and restricting the role of ICTs in promoting development. In the long run, such practices would hurt all concerned.

33. In order to ensure the effective role of ICTs in promoting development worldwide, there should be a rational layout of Internet root servers and they should be strategically deployed to improve disaster preparedness. The international community should support the building of regional and transnational ICT infrastructures as a means of narrowing the digital divide and, given the often-transboundary nature of information and communications, it should facilitate the smooth development and provision of ICTs and related products and services at the international level

34. **Mr. Holtz** (United Kingdom) commended the Government of Azerbaijan on its successful hosting of the seventh Internet Governance Forum. His delegation also welcomed the CSTD meeting on enhanced cooperation on public policy issues pertaining to the Internet and supported the proposal to hold further deliberations on the issue, perhaps within the framework of a dedicated working group. In pursuing that idea, it was important to ensure the strong voice and representation of all stakeholders and clear involvement by the wider membership of the Economic and Social Council.

35. A comprehensive mapping of current cooperation initiatives at the regional and international levels would help to assess their impact; reveal potential synergies that could be leveraged for greater impact, particularly in developing countries; expose critical issues that could benefit from multi-stakeholder mechanisms involving Governments; and identify guiding principles and best practices for effective cooperation among Governments, intergovernmental organizations and other stakeholder communities.

36. He reiterated his delegation's concern that the post of Special Advisor to the Secretary-General on Internet Governance remained vacant, despite the expressed interest of qualified candidates, and called for it to be filled quickly. With WSIS+10 on the horizon, it was more important than ever for the Secretary-General to receive quality advice and support in order to mobilize the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders in preparation for that review.

37. **Mr. Weisleder** (Costa Rica) said that, like many countries, Costa Rica faced various internal and external challenge. His Government believed that national development required solid economic policies, a sustainable environment model and an effective wealth distribution strategy and was working to ensure that the needs of its people were met in the areas of housing, health, food, education, safety and human rights. The Government viewed ICTs as an integral part of development and had undertaken to incorporate them into 85 per cent of the country's public schools.

38. However, there was still a digital divide between rural and urban areas, between different levels of education and income and between adults and youth, owing in part to the cost of technology. In recent years, collaboration between the public and private sectors had gone a long way towards narrowing that gap. Twenty-four per cent of the population had Internet access, small and medium-sized businesses accounted for 90 per cent of the software produced in Costa Rica and software accounted for 6 per cent of the country's total exports.

39. His country was pleased to have been chosen by ITU to host the first World Conference on Youth and ICT, to be held in September 2013, which would cover such topical issues as the Child Online Protection initiative, education, work, health, digital responsibility, access to technology and gender, all from the perspective of youth. Backed by the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Trade Organization (WTO), the United Nations Entity

for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and UNESCO, among others, the Conference would encourage decision-makers and other stakeholders to make digital security, access and innovation a priority in setting national policy.

40. **Mr. Ringborg** (Sweden) said that Human Rights Council resolution 20/8 on the promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet, adopted on 5 July 2012, was a milestone document and reflected the importance of ICTs as a tool for the promotion and exercise of human rights; it affirmed that the same rights that people had offline must also be protected online and recognized the global and open nature of the Internet as a driving force in accelerating progress towards development in its various forms. The challenge was to find a balance in the global Internet governance structures that took full account of the interests of all stakeholders worldwide. Full multi-stakeholder participation through the IGF had a vital role to play in facilitating international cooperation with regard to Internet governance and bringing together issues that hitherto had often been discussed in separate arenas.

41. **Ms. Bubanja** (Serbia) said that, even when commodities were well distributed, services provided and systems strengthened, many people lacked the skills and confidence to make informed decisions on issues that affected their own lives and those of their children and to engage in dialogue with decision-makers and other citizens. ICTs were the key to economic and social progress, yet Member States had made little response to the notes by the Secretary-General on communication for development programmes in the United Nations system, the most recent of which was document A/67/207.

42. Her Government supported participatory, consultative communication via radio, the Internet and other platforms and would work with other Member States to promote communication for development, including by developing policies for multi-stakeholder, development-oriented dialogue. Twenty-six per cent of the population in developing countries used the Internet, as opposed to 74 per cent in developed countries. Closing that gap was critical to achievement of the MDGs and her delegation supported initiatives aimed at improving access to information technology for marginalized groups, including persons with disabilities, girls and women, indigenous minorities and remote and vulnerable populations.

43. **Ms. Ben Dor** (Israel) said that it was not enough to help developing countries to acquire new technologies; the focus should be on capacity-building, knowledge-sharing and skills transfer. The Internet was a catalyst that could improve lives, address global problems, provide access to market information, strengthen democracy, promote sustainable development and influence politics. In 2011, ICTs had also played a central role in political transformation. Full access was vital if developing countries were to participate in the global economy and reap the benefits of globalization. WSIS+10 would provide an opportunity to deal with key issues: closing the digital divide between developing and developed countries, using real-time data, increasing developing countries' online presence and integrating ICT issues into the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015.

44. E-governance had helped Israel to revitalize its public administration, foster inclusive leadership and increase the efficiency, transparency and accountability of its civil service. Her country was leading the way in online Government services and, in the United Nations E-Government Survey 2012, had been listed as one of three recipients of an award for outstanding progress in that area. However, it had faced increasing numbers of cyberattacks in 2012 and had therefore established a national cybercommission that was responsible both for sharing aspects of Israel's Internet experience and expertise and for homeland security in the face of cyberthreats.

45. **Mr. Khadka** (Nepal) said that in his country, 31 per cent of the population had telephones and access to ICTs was growing. Generally speaking, however, the developing countries were being increasingly marginalized by the digital divide. His Government attached great importance to that issue, particularly in light of Nepal's difficult and diverse terrain, and was expanding education in ICTs and establishing rural information centres. It was urgent for the nation's development partners to make additional commitments to technology transfer and resource mobilization so that Nepal could acquire ICTs as a tool for sustainable development. North-South dialogue and South-South and triangular cooperation were also needed in order to add momentum to the process.

46. His delegation called for implementation of the Tunis Agenda and for the smooth transfer of ICTs and related technologies and infrastructure. Communication technologies needed to be affordable if they were to support development and if a truly international information society was to be achieved. The United Nations system should ensure inter-agency coordination, including at the country level, and, in conjunction with development partners and the international community, should focus on the development and implementation of fair, just, inclusive, pro-poor and people-centric ICT policies in order to narrow the digital divide

47. **Mr. Jaiswal** (India) said that the Internet had evolved into a powerful, ubiquitous and empowering medium with vast potential to foster sustainable and inclusive development. His delegation was committed to its free growth and to the vision, set out in the Tunis Agenda, of multilateral, transparent and democratic Internet governance with the full involvement of Governments, the private sector, civil society and international organizations. An appropriate Internet governance system must be flexible, representative and able to keep pace with the ever-changing nature of the Internet and must take regional and national differences and sensitivities into consideration. It must also incorporate a mechanism to deliver justice for cybercrimes in real time without being limited by political boundaries.

48. His delegation hoped that the adoption of the Committee's resolution under the agenda item would enhance cooperation on Internet policy issues in line with the Tunis Agenda and urged Member States to support the establishment of a CSTD working group on enhanced cooperation with multi-stakeholder participation.

49. **Mr. Fowlie** (International Telecommunication Union) provided an update on preparations for WSIS+10. Although ICTs had developed rapidly and 90 per cent of the world's people were within reach of a mobile telephone, two-thirds of the global population was still offline. ICTs had yet to fulfill their potential as a catalyst for all the sustainable development goals, including in the areas of health, education, gender equality, human rights and governance. In the run-up to the high-level event to be held in 2014 or 2015 as part of the review process, ITU had held discussions with international stakeholders, at which three principles had emerged. First, the preparatory process needed to be light and outcome-oriented and to build on existing mechanisms and platforms; second, the outcome of WSIS+10 must be a reference point for the next decade, keeping ICTs on the agendas of Member States as a catalyst for sustainable development; and, lastly, the multi-stakeholder approach to the overall review needed to be preserved and strengthened.

50. Two upcoming events would also strengthen that approach: a UNESCO meeting on the theme "Towards Knowledge Societies for Peace and Sustainable Development", to be held in Paris on February 2013; and an ITU high-level event on the overall review of WSIS+10, to be held in 2014, which would shape a vision for a sustainable, knowledge-based information society beyond 2015. At the World Summit on the Information Society, countries and international organizations had been asked to develop indicators and produce official statistics to monitor the information society. The Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development was a Tunis-based global, multi-stakeholder initiative that was designed to improve the quality of ICT data and indicators, particularly in developing countries. Also noteworthy was the first country-by-country review of broadband deployment, released in September 2012 by the ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission for Digital Development, together with a series of case studies that highlighted the importance of broadband networks to economic and social development and illustrated their role in achievement of the MDGs and the sustainable development goals.

51. ITU had launched a global campaign to address the gender divide in the information society. The Tech Needs Girls competition aimed to spark girls' creativity, particularly in the developing world, and inspire them to embrace technology and its career potential.

52. **Ms. Claycomb** (United Nations Children's Fund) said that when communities were active participants in development, change was more likely to occur and to be sustainable. Communication for development, which was empowering and critical to sustainable development, had played an integral role in development efforts over the past five decades. At country level, a network of UNICEF specialists collaborated with governmental and non-governmental partners, including other United Nations agencies. Recent ICT projects in India, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Cambodia had improved health care during

pregnancy and child vaccination rates and increased knowledge about HIV transmission while in Montenegro, a multi-stakeholder campaign using communication for development had raised awareness about disability.

Agenda item 24: Eradication of poverty and other development issues (*continued*) (A/67/228)

(a) Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) (*continued*) (A/67/180)

(b) Industrial development cooperation (*continued*) (A/67/223)

53. **Mr. Gaspard** (Haiti) said that poverty affected everyone; it caused social violence, which damaged countries' economic and social development. Stimulating farming and decreasing vulnerability to the effects of natural disasters were significant challenges to poverty eradication for developing countries. The elimination of extreme poverty required a genuinely integrated policy encompassing the economic, social, agricultural and environmental dimensions of development. His delegation was encouraged by the fact that the goal of halving extreme poverty had been reached five years before the target date.

54. From 6 to 9 November 2012, his Government had organized a symposium on combating extreme poverty, in which all national and international stakeholders had participated. The symposium had examined ways of reducing the rate of extreme poverty in Haiti from 51.1 per cent to 40 per cent by 2016 and had recognized the importance of job creation. Employment was one of his Government's five priorities in its effort to reduce extreme poverty and a number of macroeconomic reforms had been adopted. Those efforts were beginning to bear fruit: the number of small businesses was increasing and one of the Caribbean's largest industrial parks had opened in 2011, providing 80,000 jobs. A universal social safety net was also important to poverty eradication; his Government had recently launched various pilot schemes against hunger and extreme poverty. His delegation welcomed the ILO Social Protection Floor initiative, introduced in 2009, and the success of Latin American countries in its implementation.

55. **Ms. Maluke** (Lesotho) said that unemployment had become a global threat to development and seriously compromised the macroeconomic stability of developing countries. Poverty, which undermined human dignity, was concentrated in the regions that were home to most of the least developed countries: Southern Africa and South Asia. In his own region, over 80 per cent of workers were in vulnerable employment, lacking resilience to economic shocks and other social and economic challenges, and excessive food price volatility further reduced access to essential social services; in fact, there had been a net loss of gains in efforts to achieve the health-related MDGs. The Global Jobs Pact was a useful framework that could stimulate job growth by helping countries design policies specific to their national situations. It was vital to support training and other programmes in the public, agricultural, financial and rural sectors, including micro-financing for small-hold farmers and small and medium-sized enterprises, and to invest in rural development.

56. But efforts to eradicate poverty would be in vain unless they addressed the needs of the most vulnerable. Gender disparity in the labour market meant that women suffered disproportionately from decent work deficits and were forced to work in the informal sector. Rising youth unemployment was equally disturbing and could lead to increased criminality. His delegation therefore supported the Secretary-General's proposal to appoint a Special Advisor on Youth as part of his five-year action plan and called on the international community to honour its official development assistance (ODA) commitments in order to relieve small economies from the stigma of poverty.

57. **Ms. Barth** (International Labour Organization) urged the United Nations system, Member States, civil society and other stakeholders to enhance their efforts to promote the ILO Decent Work Agenda, which remained the best framework for poverty eradication. In light of the still-dismal global employment trends, including wage suppression and the escalating number of jobless and underemployed youth, the world risked losing an entire generation. In that context, the quality of jobs was as important as their quantity.

58. The ILO Call for Action on the Youth Employment Crisis, adopted in Geneva in June 2012 by Governments, employers and workers at the one hundred and first session of the International Labour Conference, was a major roadmap with specific guidelines and a policy portfolio of concrete measures to address the job crisis, including by correcting skills mismatches, improving apprenticeship systems and

promoting youth entrepreneurship through partnerships that enabled people to build sustainable livelihoods. At that session of the Conference, the participants had also adopted recommendation 202 on social protection floors, a landmark international labour standard that called for providing people with essential health care, social services and basic income security.

59. Agriculture remained the mainstay of most rural economies, accounting for more than 1 billion workers in 2009. Job creation in that sector would therefore be a critical engine for sustainable development and poverty reduction.

60. The primary asset of women and men living in poverty was their labour. ILO would continue to work across the spectrum of stakeholders to support the Decent Work Agenda as a means of eliminating the root causes of poverty through pro-poor, job-centred economic development and ensuring that the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty achieved its goal.

61. **Mr. Chullikatt** (Observer for the Holy See) recalled that as early as the 1960s, Pope Paul VI had called for the creation of an inclusive market economy in his encyclical on the development of peoples. Pope Benedict XVI, in his encyclical on charity in truth, had expanded the idea of equitable growth to include responsible stewardship over nature, which was essential to any strategy for sustainable development, and called for worldwide redistribution of energy resources.

62. Goal 1 of the MDGs (eradicate extreme poverty and hunger) would be difficult to achieve worldwide by 2015, but it was important to learn from countries whose strategies had been successful. Reviving economic growth was an essential first step, but it was also important to adopt pro-poor strategies such as the provision of drinking water, housing, health and education services and to ensure good governance so that the intended beneficiaries were reached. In an increasingly globalized world, there was a need to improve policy coordination through new mechanisms and institutions. As his delegation had noted at Rio+20, the key pillars of a sustainable development strategy — economic, social and environmental — must be grounded in the ethical dimension of the human person. Therefore, indicators to measure progress in that regard should also be developed.

63. **Ms. Solomon** (Observer for the International Organization for Migration) said that migration, one of the world's oldest strategies for alleviating poverty, had long-term consequences that needed to be taken into account; it could be either a result of poor employment opportunities, particularly in rural communities, or an effective way to link people with jobs and reducing poverty.

64. The rising numbers of young people over the past few decades had created a dominant demographic reality that demanded urgent consideration, especially in the context of national development plans. Resolving the economic and social uncertainties that faced developing countries was vital to improving the productive capacity and living standards of the next generation; early investment in young people could prevent them from becoming trapped in situations of poverty and dependency. It should also be borne in mind that young migrants, in particular, contributed to development via remittances, social capital and knowledge-sharing across local, regional and national borders.

65. A similar process was taking place between rural and urban areas; migration could be a positive development if accompanied by strategic urban planning. In areas of high unemployment or environmental degradation, migration should not be prevented; to do so would impoverish populations and exacerbate the issues that had been the initial drivers of the migration.

66. It was vital to consider the rights of migrants in all discussions on full employment and decent work and to promote a proper understanding of the phenomenon in order to combat the growing trend towards stigmatization and xenophobia in destination countries, where migrants' rights, including with regard to work, were being undermined. Migrant labour, whether skilled or unskilled, was desirable and necessary if States were to recover from the current economic crisis and encourage economic growth. Policies should minimize the negative impacts of migration and maximize its benefits; they should allow people to migrate in order to improve their economic and social situation and ensure that those who did so enjoyed freedom, safety and full regard for their human rights.

67. **Mr. de Looz Karageorgiades** (Observer for the Sovereign Military Order of Malta) said that the eradication of poverty was the key to eliminating other scourges and remained his Order's central task; combating poverty and exclusion and affirming human dignity had been at the heart of its mission for almost 900 years.

68. His Order considered it a duty to serve the poor and disinherited and was implementing projects in more than 120 countries thanks to diplomatic relations with 104 States. That work would not be possible without some 13,000 knights and ladies, all unsalaried, who worked alongside 80,000 permanent volunteers and highly qualified paid medical professionals with the support of 59 national affiliates that stood ready to assist in their own countries and elsewhere on short notice and to provide the necessary budget for such operations. A majority of the Order's current projects operated under the aegis of its international arm, Malteser International. Belgium, Cameroon, Haiti, Lebanon and Pakistan were among the many countries where the Order was active.

Agenda item 131: Programme planning

69. The Chair said that at the present juncture, there were no matters under the agenda item that would require the Committee's attention. He therefore proposed that the item should remain open until the Committee finished its work in the event that there was a need for it to be seized of any relevant issues.

70. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.